

Historic, Archive Document

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SHADOWS OF OUR PAST





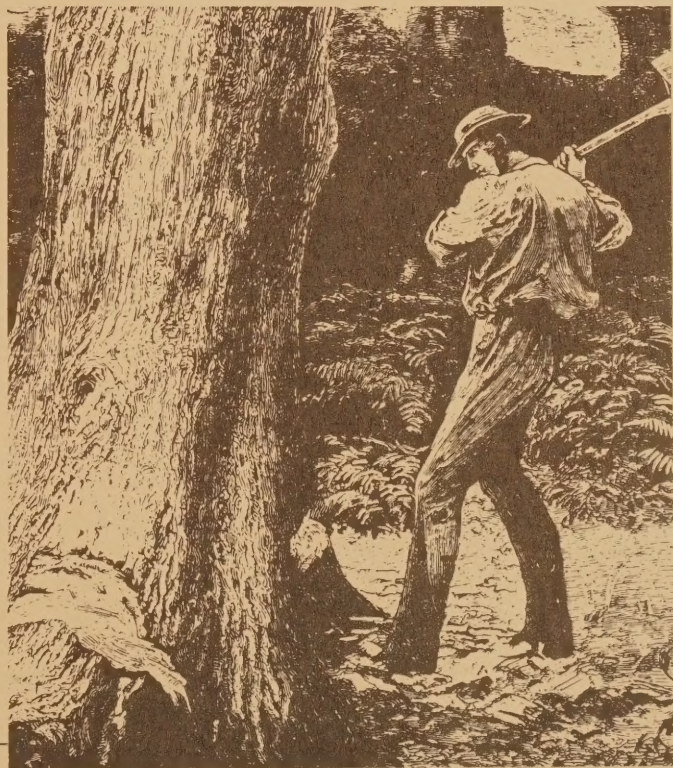


Have you ever wondered about the past... the people and the cultures that existed long ago?

During the historical period, many different groups of people lived in areas that are now National Forests. As well as managing many types of natural resources, the Forest Service also protects and interprets the cultural resources of the past.

Forest Service archeologists and historians study historic and prehistoric peoples and cultures by examining the material things (artifacts) they left behind. Existing documents and pictures tell only a part of a larger story. Some groups of people (the poor, the rural, most minorities, women and children) are not well-represented in history. By carefully excavating and documenting the remnants of someone's work or play archeologists can gain new insights into how these people lived. This knowledge helps to give us a richer and more complete account of our history.

The lands that are now National Forests were settled by people who made a living utilizing different kinds of natural resources. Each group had a different impact on the land and left different artifacts behind.



Shadows of Our Past

THE FUR TRADE

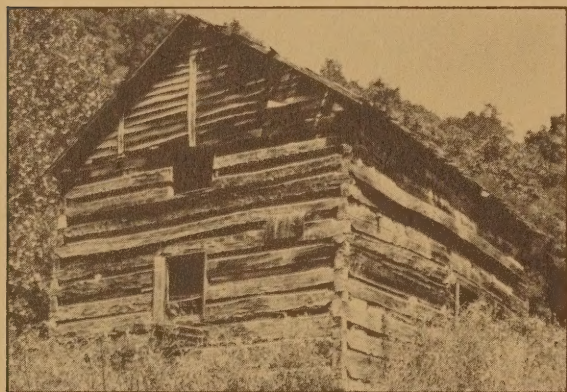
The first non-natives to venture into interior eastern North America were explorers and frontiersmen — natives of England, France, and other European countries. They came to trap beaver and other fur-bearing animals whose pelts were made into hats and clothing for Europe's wealthy. A series of trading posts were established throughout the area to trade with the many American Indian groups who were the original occupants of the woodlands.

Many Indians traded for glass and metal goods brought in by fur traders, and some frontiersmen adopted Indian lifestyles after marrying Indian women from local tribes.

Because of this, it is often difficult to tell if a fur trade site was occupied by a native Indian hunter or a foreign trapper.



After several decades, the beaver were overtrapped and the fur trade declined. Some trading posts were converted to military forts and others were abandoned. The fur traders either stayed in the area and entered different professions, or moved on to better trapping farther west.



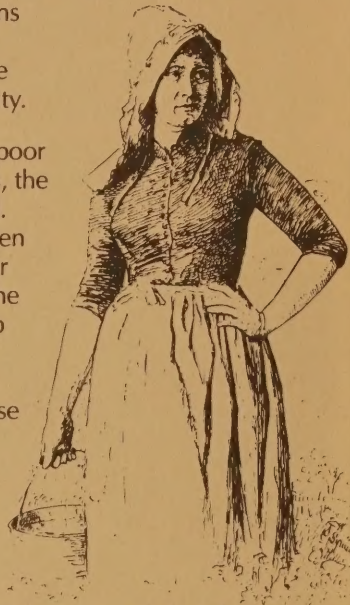
Hudson Homestead, West Virginia

AGRICULTURE

The first permanent settlers to enter the forest areas were families seeking land to grow crops and raise livestock. These farm families included whites and blacks from the eastern United States and recent immigrants from Europe. The dense woodlands were hard to clear and cultivate with the primitive tools of the day. A family's first home

was usually a small log cabin, which would later be replaced by a long, narrow log or frame house. Early settlers often had poor relations with local Indians and sadly, people from both groups were killed during periods of hostility.

Some farms were located on poor soil and after only a few years, the family moved on to new land. Farms in better areas were often worked by the same family for several generations. During the depression of the 1930's, crop prices fell so low that many farms were sold to pay debts and taxes. The remains of these depression-era farms can be seen on many National Forests.



INDUSTRY

The forests of the Eastern Region contained abundant resources. People came to mine salt, lead, iron ore, coal, and building stone. They came to drill for oil and gas, and to cut trees for wood and charcoal. This area produced the nation's first major iron furnaces and oil wells, and was the largest supplier of wood and coal into the twentieth century. Natural resources from the National Forests provided much of the lumber to build the early towns, and much of the minerals and fuel to run the first factories.

Industries ranged in size from small family operations to firms employing hundreds of workers. Many "company towns," consisting of small identical houses, lined the narrow valleys near mines and iron furnaces.

In other areas, the most important employer was the logging industry. The crews made up of Scandinavians, Blacks, French Canadians and local workers often lived

Lumber Mill, Central Pennsylvania



with their families in temporary camps. Using only hand saws for felling and horses or oxen for hauling, these crews provided the timber that helped build and fuel the industrial revolution.

In time, some companies closed or moved on to new areas, but many industries, large and small, still utilize the area's rich resources while taking care to protect and reclaim the environment.



CCC era Honey Creek Bridge, Illinois

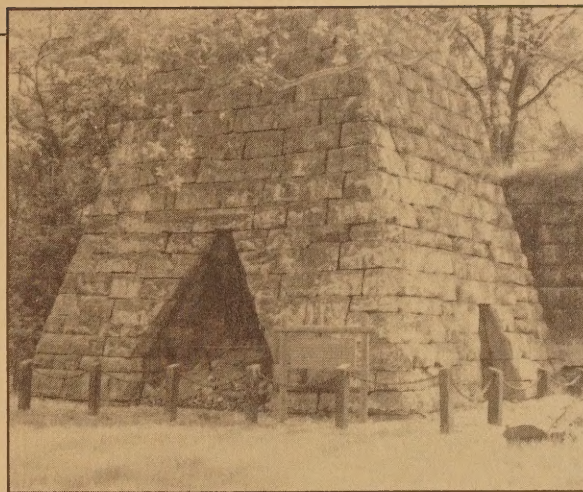
TRANSPORTATION

Beyond the major river corridors, travel in this newly settled country was difficult. The earliest overland travel was on trails made by Indians or bison. Most goods were packed on horses or carried by hand because wagons were too wide for the trails and would get stuck in the mud.

In the mid 1880's, the demand for better transportation grew and canals were dug to link developing towns with existing waterways. Travel on canals was slow and maintenance was costly. Most canals were abandoned when the first railroads appeared in the 1840's, though railroads did not become the major mode of transportation until after the Civil War.

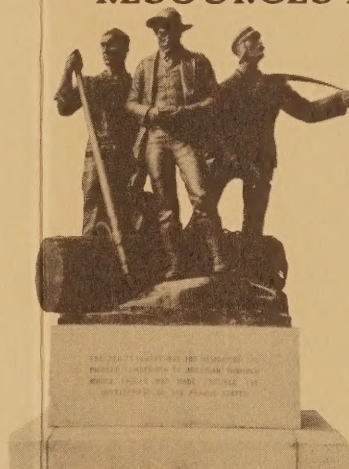
At first, river crossings were only possible at shallow fords. Later, ferry crossings with flatboats were established. Eventually, wood and metal bridges were built.

The Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's played a big role in expanding transportation opportunities in National Forests. Operating from camps built on or near the Forests, these crews of young men built many of the roads, bridges and trails that forest visitors enjoy today.



Vesuvius Iron Furnace, Ohio

FOREST SERVICE HERITAGE RESOURCES PROGRAM



Lumberman's Monument, Michigan

Forest Service archeologists and historians identify, protect and interpret historic and prehistoric remains on National Forest lands. Sites disturbed by vandalism, looting and random digging lose much of their scientific value. To protect these irreplaceable resources, Federal laws and regulations prohibit digging at historical and archeological sites except by special permit. You can help protect these sites by reporting violations of the Federal antiquities laws to law enforcement agencies.

Standing structures, ruins, prehistoric carvings and partially buried sites are part of our nation's heritage. They are shadows of our past — a tie to the people and cultures that came before us. The Forest Service Eastern Region is rich in cultural history. Visit your National Forests and learn about your past!

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"Shadows of Our Past" is one of a series of heritage brochures now in preparation. Future topics will include prehistoric archeology, Native American heritage, and early Forest Service history.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE EASTERN REGION

The Eastern Region of the Forest Service consists of 17 National Forests administering nearly 12 million acres in 13 states. The Forest Service manages these lands for recreation, natural and cultural values, and for wise use of natural resources.

For more information about the Forest Service Heritage Program or management of the National Forests, contact one of the following offices:

Allegheny National Forests

Spiridon Bldg., Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-5150

Chequamegon National Forest

1170 South 4th Avenue
Park Falls, WI 54552
(715) 762-2461

Chippewa National Forest

Cass Lake, MN 56633
(218) 335-2226

Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests

P.O. Box 519 (Federal Bldg.)
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 773-0300

Hiawatha National Forest

2727 N. Lincoln Rd.
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-4062

Huron-Manistee National Forest

421 S. Mitchell St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(616) 775-2421

Mark Twain National Forest

Rolla, MO 65401
(314) 364-4621

Monongahela National Forest

Sycamore Street, Box 1548
Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 636-1800

Nicolet National Forest

Federal Building
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 362-3415

Ottawa National Forest

Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-1330

Shawnee National Forests

901 South Commercial St.
Harrisburg, IL 62946
(618) 253-7114

Superior National Forest

P.O. Box 338 (Federal Bldg.)
Duluth, MN 55801
(218) 720-5324

Wayne-Hoosier National Forest

3527 10th St.
Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-5987

White Mountain National Forest

719 Main St.
P.O. Box 638
Laconia, NH 03247
(602) 524-6450



Point Iroquois Lighthouse, Michigan